

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

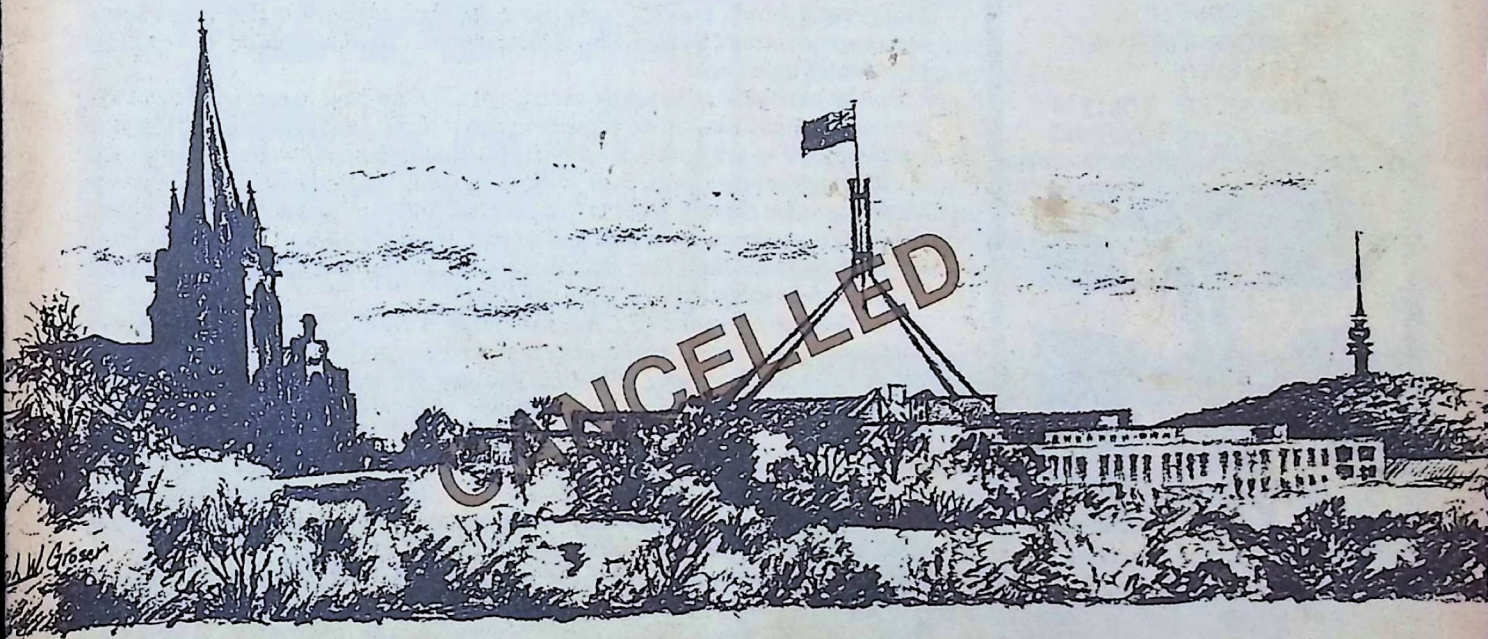
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FEDERAL CONFERENCE, CANBERRA

15-21 January, 1989



GOD'S PEOPLE GOD'S WORLD

NOT YET! BUT IT COULD HAPPEN!

At least 400 registrations are needed to make Federal Conference worthwhile and to cover costs — 600 would be even better! Yet, five weeks after registrations should have closed, total registrations stand at 223 only.

Breakdown of registrations:

Victoria	59
NSW	42
ACT	41
SA	33
Qld	23
WA	16
Tasmania	5
NT	2
USA	2

On average these registrations represent less than half a person per church!

In every "Australian Christian" for several months we have written about the exciting

and varied program for Conference. Everything is at the ready, or nearly so, including all the best features of past conferences. For details see page three.

HOME MISSIONS ISSUE

Managing Editor:
CHRIS AMBROSE

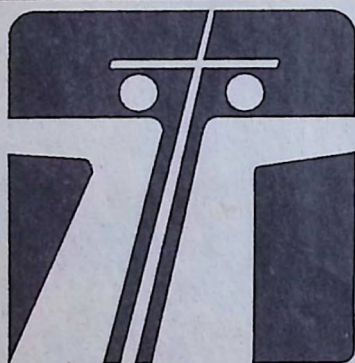
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GUEST EDITORIAL



The Future of Women's Work

Pat Kerr

Pat Kerr is the Federal President of the Australian Christian Women's Fellowship. She emigrated from England with her husband and family in 1966, made her decision in 1968, and has since worshipped and served in the ACT churches. She is an elder in the Belconnen church. Her special ministry is through her poetry, which she shares with many. She is married to Ron, her greatest supporter and encourager, and they have two married children.

It has been my privilege, whilst serving as Federal President, to travel around Australia sharing with many women in our churches. There is something special about belonging to God's family which has been reaffirmed in the friendship, fellowship and spiritual blessings I have experienced.

I give thanks to God for the vision, faith and quiet strength of the women I have met. For their commitment to CWF, their expression of God's love through leadership and their dedication to community work and fundraising for the Brotherhood.

As I have shared with women on many of the aspects of women's work and sought their views I have found that many share the same concerns and views on issues facing women in our churches. Two of these issues will be discussed on Women's Day at Federal Conference.

To look positively at the whole question of CWF we have to recognise that there are concerns and want to do something about them. Today there are alternative groups to CWF where women can share in Christian fellowship, and alternative ways in which women may express their spiritual gifts and leadership skills. Many women have returned to the work force to find personal fulfilment and achievement. Others give priority to the career of wife and mother. Women who have retired have much to offer to the fellowship of our churches. How can all women experience the oneness there is in fellowship through Jesus our Lord?

The Federal Executive of CWF will bring a Notice of Motion to Women's Conference that a Task Force be set up to look not just at CWF and its administration, but at the whole of women's fellowship ministry. We hope that through its findings will emerge a clear direction for future women's fellowship, ministry and work in our churches.

It would sadden me to see the work of CWF cease to exist because we are unable to move into the future. I believe the creation of a 'body', 'committee', 'department', call it what you will, will be a positive move into that future. A place where CWF can, along with other groups, continue its vital ministry.

Let us seek to embrace any change that may come, with honesty and openness, allowing all women of our churches to feel part of our Christian fellowship, encouraging all of us to find fulfilment in whatever way God leads us to serve him.

The other issue to be discussed is Women in the Church. Controversial for some—maybe. I do not consider myself a radical person, but I do believe in equality between men and women. Whatever our opinions, the role of women in our churches has changed. Whilst this may present a threat to some and be unacceptable to others, nevertheless change will continue. Women are not trying to take over, or to prove a point, but in a loving, sensitive way seek to complement the men as we work and grow together in harmony.

Women deserve recognition in their own right. Let us praise God that many of our churches, recognising equality, appoint both men and women to the leadership positions according to their gifts.

Jesus Christ is alive in the hearts of both men and women. Let us encourage each other to use our gifts and move forward in our worship, praise and thinking as we follow him together, so lifting the work and witness of our churches to a new, exciting dimension.

Come to Federal Conference and express your views on both these issues. Be a part of the future for women in Churches of Christ in Australia.

Federal Conference Details

Registration forms for Federal Conference should be available from your Church Secretary or from Rob Gibson, Registration Officer, 42nd Federal Con-

ference of Churches of Christ, GPO Box 2732, Canberra 2601, or from the Federal Conference Secretary, C/- 52 LaTrobe St, Melbourne 3000.

Details of popular features of past conferences that will be again present at Canberra include:

- Worship Electives** (you choose your interests)
- Business sessions** (covering all Federal activities)
- Ministers' Seminar "The Black Stump"** (A night of inspiration and tall stories)
- Inspirational rallies**
- Prayer, music and Bible study**
- A tours program**

As well there are a number of exciting new elements.

Workshops on Drama, Music, Movement, Banner-making and Computers

A concurrent National Youth Forum, as part of Conference's "Focus on Youth"

A theme hymn and 'sing-it-yourself Hallelujah Chorus'

A great line-up of speakers including Mal Garvin, Bill Tabbernee, Nell Gilmore, Ranjini Rebera, Alf White, William Nottingham (USA) and others.

Of course there will be the opportunity for truly great fellowship with Christians from all over Australia.

Don't delay any longer in registering.

Conference accommodation prices have been reduced from \$50/day for everyone to \$35/day for pensioners and students and to \$45/day for others (dinner, bed and breakfast).

REGISTER NOW!

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

The Sunshine of God's Love

During a communion service **Russell Clinton** used his experience as a pilot to illustrate our Christian life. He'd been flying in northern Australia and had taken off in a blanket of cloud. There was nothing to see but the darkened billows of cloud. Suddenly the Cessna burst through the clouds into brilliant sunshine.

As Christians we often experience similar days when events in our lives cloud the sunshine of God's love. There is no time when God's love isn't there to light our day. It is important that we allow it to reach us. There are two ways to do so. Philippians 4:8 instructs us to "think on the things that are true, honourable, just, pure lovely and gracious" and "if there is any excellence, anything worthy of praise, think on these things".

Through us putting this into practice, God's love finds the gaps between the clouds and illuminates our daily lives. So, by keeping our mind in tune with God's mind, we can enable God's love to reach us. This is a good guide for our everyday walk with God.

Sometimes the clouds of life overwhelm us. No amount of discipline penetrates the heavy blanket of cloud. It is then that the full measure of God's love is seen. Instead of reaching down through the cloud to us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God helps us burst through the clouds to experience the fullness of his sunshine. He helps us to rise above the storms. He helps us light up despite pain and despair.

The two-way miracle of the sunshine of God's love is why he needn't take away our problems to give us victory over them. It is this miracle that caused Paul to testify to God's enabling power, in 2 Cor. 12:9 "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'".

With this in mind we can continue our Christian walk, mindful of God's love reaching us when life's clouds threaten to block it, and praising him for the special moments when he lets us soar above the clouds for a moment of glory.

—Kaye Caporn
(Ivanhoe, Vic.)

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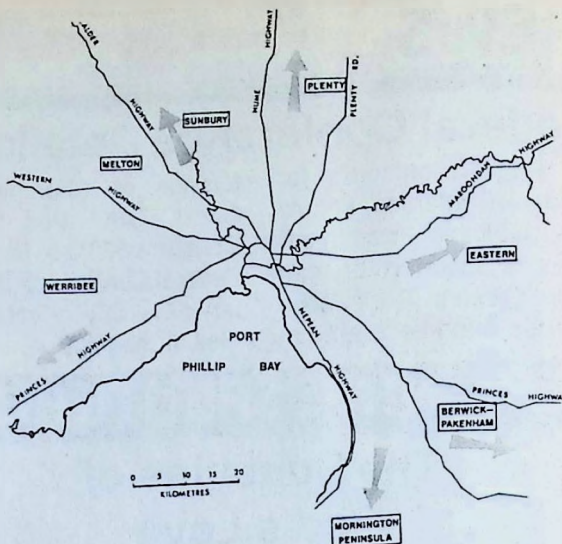
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PLAN FOR NEW CHURCHES

Melbourne's perimeter of urban development is now overtaking the location of existing churches and those established in more recent decades. The joint Department of Mission, Education and Development - Properties Corporation initiative, **CROP** or **Church Reach Out Plan**, is designed to meet the church planting challenge. In Tasmania consideration is also being given to church planting.



CROP—FIRST MOVE

60 people have committed themselves to the planting of the **Mornington** church which commenced on September 4. First time visitors have been present at all subsequent services. Growth signs are most encouraging. A substantial subsidy from the Department is assisting the church to have **Ian Carmel** serve as full-time minister.

Other churches currently receiving help include **Ulverstone**, **Bright**, **Port Fairy**, **South Melbourne**, **Kyneton** and the **Richmond Vietnamese Fellowship**.

CROP IN THE WESTERN SUBURBS

Sunshine will be the base for new church planting ventures proposed for Melbourne's Western suburbs. **Ian Corlett** will move from Kensington to head this new thrust. The **Kensington** ministry will be continued by **Klm Thoday**, who has worked with the Network in 1988. **Mike Esbensen** will assist.

\$25,000 will be needed in direct gifts for the joint projects. The projects are a major step of faith for the leadership team, Sunshine and Kensington churches and the Department which must provide the financial backing.



A NEW GENERATION OF BELIEVERS

Enthusiasm, vitality, inquiring minds and a search for meaning characterise this group. Department **Field Director**, **Andrew Ball**, is heading a team committed to evangelism, faith development and leader training among young people. A new generation of believers is emerging. Department camping, youth events and services to local churches are all a part of this vital process of growth.



MISSION, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA — TASMANIA

HOME MISSIONS PLANTING "NOW FOR THE NINETIES" IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

"Being confident...He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion."
Philippians 1:6

The delegates to the **National Consultation on Evangelism** (pictured preparing State strategy) were, left to right: **Des Croot, Barry Ryall, Valerie Taylor, Craig Colvin, John Bond** and **Gail Bernard**.

Out of that strategy came the theme "**Now for the Nineties**" to fit our strategy of church planting, church counselling and effective evangelism.

John Bond will be available to assist churches and the Committee in 1989.



* **Noranda** has a new building and is subsidised at \$475 per week at present. **Ken Laffer** is in his fifth year as minister.

* **Mandurah**, under **Roger Ryall's** leadership, is subsidised \$150 per week.

* **Kingsley** is looking to build as they have outgrown the school rooms. **Don Butler** is leading them. Subsidy \$40 per week. Attendances about 100.

* **Murdoch** is ministered to by **Des Croot (Mission & Extension Officer)** in an honorary capacity and a part-time associate, **John Crosby**.



David and Kim Timms (pictured planting a tree for the future) accepted a call to plant a new church in the Darling Ranges foothills, based at **High Wycombe**.

After an Interest meeting on September 3 the group began meeting in the rented manse the next Sunday. Attendances have averaged 20 for the first month with offerings averaging \$175. The remainder of the ministry costs are covered by the **Home Missionary Committee**.

This is a true faith venture by the Committee, in which we have already seen God's blessing and guidance. We are looking to the churches for support.

Annual Offering—November 27

New youth worker for Nunawading

How do you ensure that a new youth worker meets the young people assigned to her care, shares their experiences and meets them on their own level? Lynda Smith found that a five-day Bike Hike through the Gramplains with the young people of the Nunawading, Vic., church was a great way of doing that. A saddle-sore Lynda was inducted into her new role at a special service the day after the Bike Hike.

Lynda, who completed a Youth Worker's Diploma at the Institute of Church Leadership at Wollongong, brings a wealth of experience. She has been in-



Lynda Smith

involved in a youth program at the Wollongong, NSW, church that included more than 200 young people.

Lynda Smith succeeds Cathy Bentley as youth worker and can be reached at the church office (03) 877 6077 on Thursdays and Fridays.

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Speaker at Federal Conference

Ranjini Rebera has agreed to be a speaker on "Women in the Church" at Federal Conference.

Ranjini has qualifications in speech and drama from London, and has taught in Sri Lanka, India, Australia and Singapore. She is married and has two teenage children. A former member of the Epping, NSW, and Ainslie, ACT, churches, Ranjini has recently returned to Canberra from Singapore.

Ranjini has conducted workshops and seminars on communications, public speaking and the role of women in society, and has broadcast and written for radio and television in Sri Lanka, India, New Zealand and Australia.



Ranjini Rebera

She has also written extensively on these and other subjects and has had articles, short stories and poetry published.

Here is one of her recent poems:

A WOMAN'S HANDS

I sit in a pew
waiting.
The Human
Becomes Divine.
The bread ...
Perhaps kneaded by a woman's hands.
The wine ...
Perhaps women worked in the winery.

But when the Human
becomes Divine
a woman's hands are taboo!
"You shall not touch
the Divine!"

The Divine became human,
Penetrating a woman's womb.
(Patriarchy had no place!)
Like soft petals enfolding
a crystal dewdrop,
The seed nestled
in a female form.

"You shall not touch
the Divine!"

The mother's hands held the child.
They soothed, they comforted,
they created security.
The hands were always there
as surely as the setting sun
reveals itself with every dawn.

"You shall not touch
the Divine!"

The battered body
taken off the cross ...
Women's hands gently
perform burial rites.
The crimson blood
must surely stain those hands.
Women's hands —
caring hands.

"You shall not touch
the Divine!"

I sit in a pew.
Waiting.

Jubilee Commemoration Day

A large number of Explorer and Good Companions members, leaders and friends gathered at Camp Waterman, Vic., on October 15 to celebrate the Jubilee with special commemorative events.

Vlc.-Tas. Conference President, Gerald Rose, led a service of dedication of the Explorer Commemorative Wall.

Good Companions club members had their special service in the Rita Roberts Lodge where Dot Brooker and Department Chairman, Dr Cliff Warmbrunn, participated in a recognition of gifts of over \$2,000 which went towards the refurbishment of the Lodge. During the short service a recent photograph of Rita Roberts was unveiled.

Both groups produced a Jubilee History and copies may be



Gerald Rose, and some Explorers reading plaques on the Explorer Commemorative Wall

obtained from the Department of Mission, Education and Development office—Good Companions, \$2 plus postage and Explorers, \$5 plus postage.

CYC-RAM '88 concludes in Canberra

On October 8 at 2.30 pm an estimated 350 cyclists rode through rain to finish Bike For Bibles '88 at the steps of the former Parliament House in Canberra. Leading the procession were the cyclists of CYC-RAM '88, a team of 15 overseas and Australian riders. 22 weeks ago they, together with their road support crew, left the same site on May 7 to cycle 15,684 km around Australia.

Bruce Pearce, the Chairman of the Australian Council of the Bible Society in Australia, opened the welcoming ceremony with prayer. Senator Michael Tate, the Federal Minister for Law and the President of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, officially welcomed the cyclists to Canberra. As each CYC-RAM cyclist's name was called they came forward to receive recognition for their five month marathon. Presentations to the overseas participants were made by Ambassadors or representatives from the Embassies.

Beside the CYC-RAM team there were 16 other teams which had ridden from Cairns, Perth, Kadina, Melbourne, Burnie, Brisbane, Broken Hill, Newcastle and several from Sydney.

It is unknown if the target of \$500,000 was reached. The riders now have the task of contacting their sponsors and those wishing to make donations to the project. The funds will be used in the Bible Society's Aboriginal Support Program and its Literature Development Projects in the Pacific.

L.C.F. Higgins
Chartered
Accountant

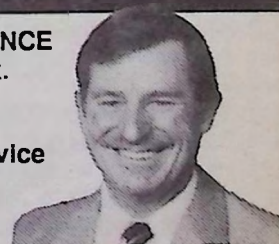
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Letters to the Editor limit is 200 words.

LEADERSHIP 2000

To the Editor,

In reply to Ken Dundas' letter ("A.C." October 15), the idea of leadership 2000 came from the 1988 Senior Ministers' Conference. The members are all senior ministers of our largest churches. They meet annually for support and to consider issues peculiar to large churches.

They asked Christian Projects, as part of its aim to promote leadership development, to fund a project that would affect the long-term future of our Movement. The proposal was that a group of younger ministers, who have shown leadership potential, should be exposed to an intensive training experience with input from dynamic international agencies and under the supervision of the senior ministers.

The participants were nominated by the senior ministers and represent all States. They were chosen on the basis of potential and performance. Their churches have responded enthusiastically. The choice of Singapore was both economic and practical. The original proposal was to meet in Perth, which was scheduled for the next Senior Ministers' Conference. A group travel and accommodation package to Singapore worked out cheaper. Furthermore, Singapore is a base for some of the most dynamic movements in the contemporary church scene, and South East Asia is one place where the church is making its greatest impact.

I am sorry if Leadership 2000 seems like an elitist jaunt to Ken. It is not intended to be. We expect that what we will receive, for our \$20,000, is a group of young ministers with 'fire in the belly', and 40 good years of ministry ahead of them.

—Robert Smith
(Chairman, Christian Projects)

AGE OF THE EARTH

To the Editor,

J.H. Luxton ("A.C." October 15) is insensitive on two counts: (1) he denigrates the professional opinions of people like me, whose entire working life has been as a research scientist; (2) he advances his interpretation of scripture as 'God's word' and conveniently labels any alternative views as 'man's word' so that he can ignore them.

Like most 'young earth' proponents J.H. Luxton chooses to avoid facing the reality of evidence for the antiquity of the earth that real scientists find **everywhere** in nature. It is safer to keep his nose in the Bible and his eyes firmly averted from the overwhelming evidence of great age that abounds in God's handiwork in nature.

Mr Luxton, have you ever worked as a research scientist? Have you made a career in a field (e.g., climatology) where you had to develop a proper theoretical understanding and 'hands on' skills in scientific dating? Show an open mind, Mr Luxton, write to me c/o the Cheltenham church office (others can too) and I will send you some real evidence from the international scientific literature (a sensible counterpoint to those nonsensical Queensland publications). Doing so will challenge you theologically, but isn't truth more important than fiction, no matter how laudable the motives behind the latter?

—Greg Ayres
(Cheltenham, Vic.)

LEADERSHIP 2000

To the Editor,

It's a pity that people like Ken Dundas (who paints the Senior Ministers Consultative fellowship as some kind of elitist group) didn't take the trouble to do what the Bible suggests. Ask someone who is involved. Emotive words like "inner sanctum", "jaunt", "smacks of elitism" etc., are not only loaded with a jaundiced connotation, but would be unnecessary if the writer had taken the

trouble to "go to your Christian brother first".

The senior ministers group is an informal and ad hoc fellowship of some pastors who head team ministries in churches that are committed to growth. We get together once a year because we need each others' support, ideas and prayers. The ministers meet with the full support of their local elders, to whom we are responsible, since I doubt whether anyone wants another brotherhood department.

The Leadership 2000 vision was an attempt to pass on leadership ideas, enthusiasm and impetus to younger ministers who have the potential to grow churches.

We have picked a few, there are many others we would like to involve. Maybe next time!

The money asked for, and given enthusiastically by Christian Projects, represents a \$1,000 investment to each of these young ministers and their churches. The senior ministers are being funded (as they have for the last three years) by their own churches. It represents personal commitment by some of our most experienced ministers to the future of our Movement in Australia.

—Jay Bacik
(Northside Community Church, NSW)

[This letter has been edited to fit the 200-word limit.]

LETTERS FROM TERTIUS

AUTHENTIC AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANITY

To the Editor,

My mate from St Chad's was confiding in me about a seminar they've just had on 'An Authentic Australian Christianity'. He seemed a bit disappointed. Everyone knows that a lot of Australians aren't enthusiastic about Christianity in its old-style packaging and my mate was looking for something in an Aussie package that St Chad's could peddle round our suburb with everyone eager to accept it.

I began wondering what an authentic Australian Christianity is. The only conclusion that I could reach is that if a person is Australian and a fair dinkum Christian at the same time, his Christianity is authentic Australian Christianity. It may not be authentic in the same way for the Australian next door, who has a different temperament and a different background and a different lifestyle. His would have to be a Christianity that is authentic for him.

Maybe there's no such thing as an authentic Australian Christianity that can be wrapped in green and gold and handed out to the strains of Waltzing Matilda in pubs and clubs and race tracks, with excited recipients taking the packages home to Mum and saying, "Hey! Look what I've got! We'll have to get some more of this."

It looks as if we are back to the hard and painful slog of getting alongside each Australian and helping him or her to see the gospel as it applies to his or her particular situation.

What a pity! Packaged salvation seems to be such a neat idea.

—TERTIUS

FLAT EARTH

To the Editor,

J.H. Luxton's ("A.C." October 15) defence of the Biblical age of the earth leads me to expose another non-Biblical heresy—that of the round earth. The Bible plainly teaches that the earth is flat. It has four corners (Isaiah 11:12). I have never seen a sphere with corners. This flat earth is supported by pillars that hold it up (Job 9:6; Jeremiah 31:37). Above the flat earth is a semi-circular dome (firmament) which keeps the waters that are above the sun, moon and stars from flooding the earth (Genesis 1:6-7, 14-17). In this dome there are windows which are occasionally opened to let the water above the dome flow through. This is what we call rain (Genesis 7:11; Isaiah 24:18). God sits on top of this dome and looks so far down onto the flat earth that its inhabitants look like grasshoppers (Isaiah 40:22).

It is about time Bible-believing Christians stopped accepting the trick photography and heretical views of the scientists. Nowhere does the Bible teach a round earth. Every reference to its shape indicates that it is flat.

—G.E. Platt

(For the "Flat Earth Society")

CAN THE CHURCH ADAPT?

To the Editor,

In reference to Bruce Anderson's 'Comment' ("A.C." October 15): why must we always rush to the extremes of any issue? We have many examples of both his extremist suggestions failing. We also have many examples of strong growth resulting from the synthesis of the two!

From the giant Crystal Cathedral in California to Paradise AOG in Adelaide, to the Whitford Church of Christ in Perth. All are powerfully serving churches built on mid-week local house groups coming together on Sundays in a large-scale church meeting. Thus they achieve the coveted family intimacy of the New Testament while enjoying those "efficiencies"

of scale, leadership and resources.

The only wonder to me is: why aren't all our churches this way?

—Christian Smith
(Balaklava, SA)

CAN THE CHURCH ADAPT?

To the Editor,

Bruce Anderson's article ("A.C." October 15) should not be passed over lightly. Church lead-

ers who have burdened their congregations with unnecessary debts have sinned. The unavoidable results are degeneration spiritually and numerically, as continual demands have to be made to meet payments.

House meetings are good but can lead to isolationism and, as Bruce suggests, a feeling of being free to be absent when an oppor-

tunity presents itself. These 'opportunities' increase with time.

Suggestions of a "shorter time of singing, sharing and prayer" mean a lesser degree of commitment to worship and less time for fellowship.

If a congregation is being asked for a greater commitment than the

•Continued on Page 18

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PAPERS

A.I.D.S. WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS THINK?

Is AIDS the judgement of God on homosexuals? What should be the Christian attitude to AIDS sufferers? Should Christians be involved in AIDS education?

In September's issue of "Zadok Perspectives" John Harris gives clear Biblical responses to these questions, arguing that the major issue for the church is not the condemnation of sin but the expression of true Christian compassion.

"Zadok Perspectives", September 1988, is available from the Zadok Institute for Christianity and Society, Blackall St, Barton, ACT 2600 for \$3 plus \$1.05 postage.

BOOKS

THE LONG TRIP

by Chris Sadler (Albatross)

The comments on the back cover of this intriguing novel say all that needs to be said in introducing the contents. The title "The Long Trip" is certainly apt. It is really a story of several trips, none of them very long in themselves. There is a trip in the Australian Alps to Mt Kosciusko, a tour of New Zealand and a couple of other 'trips' which must be left for the reader to discover.

It is a book of travel, philosophy and human relationships. There is a confrontation with the philosophy of Nietzsche, after the chief character purchases a copy of "Thus Spoke Zarathustra" in a back street bookshop in Sydney.

The setting, apart from the sojourn in New Zealand, is typically Australian and the dialogue is in the Australian vernacular and very correct, with nothing impure or improper.

Included in the novel is a chapter which is a one-act play featuring a believer, an unbeliever, death, a demon and an angel. This is a most unusual novel. Dramatic, soul-searching perhaps, startling, and, at times, frightening. But very true to life.

—Paul Payne

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Paths to inclusive worship

by Frances Ford, Ruth Ford, Morag Logan, Cynthia Page (Australasian Council of Churches)

Because mature employed women are one of the two groups leaving the church in significant numbers, this resource is to be welcomed. It has grown out of women's experience of exclusion and alienation from worship presented in male-centred concepts and language. The book contains liturgies, prayers and hymns. Some traditional prayers and hymns have been reworded. New hymns and prayers reflect the non-gendered nature of God, which includes both the qualities we refer to as masculine and feminine.

Our tradition tends to emphasize the freedom of individual worship leaders to structure worship experiences in non-liturgical forms. The contents of this book, then, could be seen as a source of ideas and as a resource against which to check for exclusionary imagery and language when preparing for worship.

—Rosslyn Reed

THE TRANSLATION DEBATE

What Makes a Bible Translation Good?

by Eugene H. Glassman (Inter Varsity Press)

A good addition to the debate over the use of biblical translations and what makes a good translation. Eugene Glassman has been involved in missions for a number of years and since 1974 has been a translation advisor to the United Bible Societies.

This book starts by tracing the history of the translation of the Bible (up until the Middle Ages if the authorities did not appreciate a translation then the translator was not only criticised but in many cases forfeited his life). The differences, if there are any, between a translation, an interpretation and a paraphrase are discussed as are the two major ways of translating — a form oriented translation and a content oriented translation. The final couple of chapters deal with some of the principles that make a good translation and his illustrations help the reader to understand some of the dilemmas facing translators.

— C.R.A.

50 FUN PROGRAMMES THAT WORK WITH YOUTH

edited by Geraldine Anderson (Joint Board of Christian Education)

The title of this book says it all! Geraldine Anderson, a Uniting Church youth worker in Melbourne, has selected ideas from groups throughout Australia to compile this resource. If you are a youth leader and are stuck for creative programming ideas, then this book is for you. The ideas are simple and easy to follow and are designed for different types and sizes of youth groups.

The book is divided into two distinct categories, youth group programmes for 'in' nights and 'out' nights — 'in' nights being in the hall or usual meeting place and 'out' nights being elsewhere. There is also a section in the book which will give you some help in planning programmes, plus some tips on where to get material and resources. Other activities are clearly marked as good mixing programmes and asterisked for suitable age groups.

I would suggest that if you work with youth you add this book to your library. The programmes are all good, clean fun.

—Andrew Ball

BELIEF IN A MIXED SOCIETY

by Christopher Lamb (Lion Paperback) \$6.95

Published in 1985 this is an examination of the problems that are being raised in British society by the large number of cultures in their society. Given the current debate in Australia over the benefits of multiculturalism and the implications on our society this was a timely book to read. Christopher Lamb, as a theologian, writes from a background of living in an Asian culture, from an academic study of Islam and from constant contact with the most pluralistic parts of Britain.

Christopher Lamb looks at different attitudes towards a series of issues that are raised when various cultures meet. Issues discussed include education, food, sex and gender, marriage and family, health, morality and the law, work and achievement, freedom and truth in the media, wealth and power. All these are issues that the Christian church should be aware of especially when it is trying to build bridges to those of different cultures and wishing to share the gospel with them.

For anyone whose church is involved in a culturally diverse situation this should be required reading.

— C.R.A.

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He's on the 14th tea now ...

Intifada

Intifada is the term which Arabs are using in Israel to describe their uprising. In October I was privileged to hear a constructive discussion on the Jewish-Arab conflict from three people living and working in Israel.

Shukri Abed, an Arab University lecturer, described Intifada as having a hidden part and a part which all can see. The more obvious portion is noted especially in closing of shops every day at 12 noon and by giving instruction to children whose schools have been closed. The hidden part is to be found in improved self-esteem among Arab people and a realisation of their capabilities. Uprising denotes both these aspects: rising in resistance to oppression and rising in both individual and national worth.

Yehezkel Landau of Oz ve Shalom (Strength and Peace) is not only involved politically, but his program works to bring about greater understanding between Arab and Jew, especially children. He decries the fact that when Jews were willing to talk 'two nations in one land' Arabs were not, and that now the situation is the reverse. Noting that both nations are descended from one father and that each received a blessing, he believes that the way forward requires discussions which recognise the two nations.

Gerald Butt of BBC World Service agreed that an agenda for discussion is required. However not only is there no common agenda between Arab and Israeli, even the two national groupings have difficulty speaking with one voice. One person with whom Gerald Butt had spoken believes there is one year left to start discussions otherwise he fears a blood-bath.

In this depressing situation there are possibilities. There are many groups in Israel working to improve relationships and, if there is time, this will bear fruit eventually. The two super powers have a role in this situation and it may be that they can force their client states to the conference table.

Finally, there is the religious option. Both groups claim Abraham as father and Christians accept him as spiritual father. All three accept that in the beginning God created all people. Certainly there are marked political and economic considerations, but perhaps the Christian church, which teaches reconciliation, has a specific role in helping these two groups to see the spiritual dimension of the problem. That was the challenge presented to those of us who participated in the discussion.

—Trevor Banks

Wycliffe workers from Carlingford

In November Richard and Sheryle Brown, of the Burwood, NSW, church plan to travel to the Philippines to spend six months with a Wycliffe translation team in Bontoc town, Luzon.

Richard, originally from the North Turramurra church, worked as a mechanical engineer for six years. In 1985 he visited Papua New Guinea for three months to see mission work first-hand. On his return he began a diploma/degree course at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Carlingford, where he is now in his third year.

Sheryle completed three years midwifery training in England and had, like Richard, visited PNG for three months to look at mission work. She studied at theological college and attended the Wyoming church.

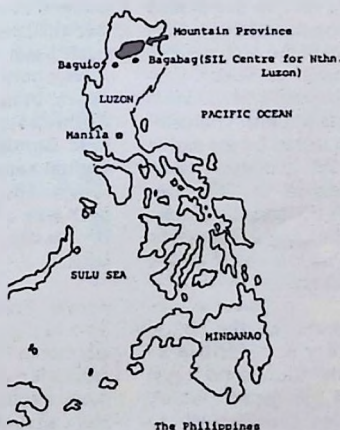


Sheryle and Richard at their wedding in July

22,000 Bontoc people of Mountain Province. They will also produce a documentary about Bontoc Bible translation, for use in Australia.

Their six months in the Philippines will serve three purposes for the Browns. It will give them a chance to work together as a team in mission context. They will discover if they should become Bible translators themselves. It will also serve as Richard's college internship program.

The Churches of Christ Theological College has an Internship option for students taking a diploma/degree course to undertake their program in the first semester of their final year. The typical avenue of service is pastoral assistance or youth work, but Richard will work in the Philippines with Wycliffe as the College's first missionary intern. When he and Sheryle return from the Philippines in July '89, Richard will complete his college year and graduate.



In the Philippines they will be involved with a Scripture-in-Use program making videos with the

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The number of missionaries sent out from Britain declined from 7,000 in 1972 to 4,500 in 1984. In the same period short-term missionaries had increased from one in 20 of those in the field to one in four.

An outbreak of deadly malaria is being fought in southern Ethiopia. A World Vision worker, Abate Agussa, died of cerebral malaria last month. Another 28 of the World Vision staff have suffered milder forms of the disease. The death rate is as high as 6 in every 2,500. The malaria is being fought with anti-malarial drugs, insecticides, mosquito nets, wire mesh and other protective equipment.

According to the United Nations population projection on Kenya, the country, with a current population estimation of 22 million, will reach an estimated 34 million by the year 2000. The growth rate of 4% is said to be one of the highest in the world. To tackle the problem the Catholic Church has trained voluntary teachers to educate the population on the natural family planning method. So far, over 600 centres for teaching this method have been established for the country's 4 million Catholics.

The Zambian Government has expressed concern over the rapid growth of splinter churches in the country, saying if no solution was found to the phenomenon "It is bound to create problems and confusion in society". Speaking at the opening of a three-day inter-denominational conference, a Government Political Secretary said splinter churches have created divisions. He warned that too many voices in the church would make it difficult for the ordinary people to know which God to follow.

Youth With a Mission is planning outreach visits to New Zealand, Fiji and Vanuatu, as well as a program in Melbourne, this summer. Those wishing to take part or learn more about these visits should contact the office at 1 Kent Rd, Surrey Hills, Vic. 3127. Phone (03) 836 0011.

Life Line and Youth Line, Sydney, have an urgent need for telephone counsellors. Anyone over 18 years may apply. Successful applicants will be mature, non-judgemental, caring people with Christian concern and commitment. The next training course will commence on February 5, 1989. Application forms may be obtained from Life Line Training Program, 600 George St, Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 264 2222.

93 responded to the invitation to receive Christ after viewing evangelistic films shown at the first open air campaign of Sudan Interior Mission's cinevan in Arequipa, Peru. The campaign lasted for six nights with an average nightly attendance of 300. Between 30 and 40 people are attending a Bible study begun as a result of the campaign.

Members of the Bible Society's "Bible-a-Month" Club send a gift of \$5 per month which enables the Society to supply a Bible for someone in need. More members are sought.

Rev. Chas Storie will take up duties as the Victorian Temperance Alliance's new General Secretary as from November 1. He is a Baptist minister, currently secretary of the Balwyn Baptist Church. He has degrees in Arts, Science and Divinity. He believes unequivocally in total abstinence and anticipates that one of the future directions of the Alliance will be in the area of direct public presentations through the media.

A new study by the Gallup organisation indicates that in the 1980s US churches have made no progress in bringing believers into the organised church community. The study reveals that 44%—approximately 78 million Americans—remain outside the church, compared with 41% a decade ago.

Melvin Wilcox, a Florida entrepreneur from West Palm Beach, USA, plans to open a re-creation of Jerusalem on 25,000 acres of arid land in West Texas. He is trying to raise \$2.5 billion to construct the 'holy city' and envisions a place where employees and visitors must wear biblical-era garb. He says his transplanted 'holy city' would include a seminary, art galleries, chariot races, palaces, marketplaces and medical facilities.

Dr Alan R. Tippet passed away in September at 76 years of age. He had been a Methodist missionary in Fiji for 20 years, then professor of Anthropology and Oceanic Studies at a theological seminary in California. His highest degree was a PhD from the University of Oregon, USA.

Kenya President Daniel arap Moi gave assurance last month that his government will continue to safeguard freedom of worship. Moi's assurance follows a threat by the Secretary of KANU (the country's only legal political party), General Moses Mudavadi, that the government might withdraw freedom of worship from Anglican Bishop David Gitari for his criticism of some KANU resolutions.

In a declaration marking the 50th anniversary of the Nazi attacks on Jews in Germany and Austria, the council of the Federation of Protestant [Reformed, Methodist] Churches of Switzerland recalls 'with shame' Swiss complicity in Nazi

actions against Jews. It urges Swiss Christians to 'fight resolutely the smallest signs of anti-semitism, revived again, even and especially if it makes arguments based on the unfortunate situation in the occupied territories.' It concludes with an appeal to pray for peace and justice in the Middle East, to resist anti-semitism and xenophobia, and to work on behalf of those oppressed and deprived of their rights.

The Victorian Council of Churches has appointed a new General Secretary, who will be part of an Australia-wide team preparing to welcome the Assembly of the World Council of Churches planned for Canberra, February 1991. Rev. Robert Gribben is currently pastor of Trinity Uniting Church in North Balwyn. He will commence his appointment in February 1989.

The annual meeting of the Secretaries of Christian World Communions was held in Jerusalem October 18-22. Father Pierre Duprey (Roman Catholic) is Chairman and Dr Bert Beach (SDA) is Secretary. Among the 19 participants was Dr Trevor Banks of Australian Churches of Christ. He was representing the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council. Dr Alan Lee represented the World Convention of Churches of Christ. The next meeting is scheduled for Geneva, October 1989. The conference was followed by a 3-day course of Holy Land studies.

Paul Madden, a former detective with the South Australian Police Force, has been appointed the new Director of the Adelaide City Mission. He is a member of the Cloverdale Baptist Church. His vision for the Mission is to "develop a vibrant and relevant Christian enterprise, reaching out to crushed and lonely people, seek-

ing to share the love of God with them in a very practical way". He can be contacted on (08) 223 5428.

The Sydney City Mission presently has 5 centres in Sydney and Wollongong training 700 unemployed people annually. Between 85% and 90% of these are successfully placed in employment following graduation. The Mission is looking for Managers and staff for its many projected new employment training schemes in Sydney, Wollongong and Adelaide. Anyone interested can phone Sydney (02) 607 0522, Wollongong (042) 28 0555 or Adelaide (08) 223 5428.

In Balwyn, Vic., the local Anglican and Churches of Christ clergy have exchanged pulpits for the first time. Balwyn's student minister, Graham Woodward, was guest preacher at both morning Eucharists in St Barnabas' Anglican Church, at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Father Douglas Stephens, vicar of St Barnabas' was preacher at the Churches of Christ morning service on August 28.

Public servants facing criminal or civil charges in a court of law who lose the confidence and respect of the masses should be required to resign, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe has recommended. This call follows university students' angry reaction to the acquittal of the Deputy Minister of State. The students alleged corruption. The Catholic Commission commented that the problem of corruption faced every society and it was the seriousness with which each society tackled the problem which determined whether or not corruption got out of control.

The Uniqueness of Christ

—E.L. Williams

The Historical Jesus

The late H.G. Wells, a historian, was not a professing Christian, but something of a critic. In his *Short History of the World* he made the point that the only direct source of information concerning the life and teaching of Jesus is the four Gospels. He wrote without reserve that all four agree in presenting a definite personality and we are obliged to say that there was a real man, who could not have been invented.

Christianity is rooted in a real historical figure but it centres in *The Christ of Faith*.

He is Jesus as interpreted in the Apostolic witness, as presented in the New Testament. According to this witness he was both human and divine—a unique person. As truly human he increased in wisdom and stature and shared the natural needs and feelings of all normal human beings. According to the Gospel account of a special experience he was tempted according to the popular expectations concerning the Messiah (the anointed one). He shared the feelings of human weakness and was tempted in all points of his nature as we are, but without sin (Hebrews 4:15). In the Garden of Gethsemane his real humanity showed in his prayer that if it be possible the cup of his destiny may pass from him, but he was prepared to say: "Not as I will but as you will".

Along with the witness to his humanity the New Testament, both in the Gospels and the Epistles, bears witness to his divinity. On one occasion he asked his disciples what others were saying about him and they said that others were generally describing him as a prophet. He then asked them what they thought. Peter, as usual, spoke out and said they believed him to be the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus himself claimed that no-one knows the Son but the Father, and no-one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal

him (Matt. 11). He also claimed that those who had seen him had seen the Father (John 14).

Paul summed up the common witness of the New Testament in Philippians 2. He wrote that though Jesus was in the form of God he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, took the form of a servant, was born in the likeness of man and became obedient unto even death on a cross. Therefore God honoured him and gave him a name above every name that at his name every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Paul also wrote that everyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes that God raised him from the dead will be saved (Rom. 10). In Romans 1 he wrote that Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection. We can say that the resurrection was God's answer to all the claims that Jesus had made to be the unique Son of God.

In Christ we see

The Combination of Revelation and Mystery

By rational observation persons may grasp the idea of a God—an uncaused Cause—but only if God descends and draws aside the veil can we know him as he, or our, God with whom we can enter into personal relationship; but even with revelation there remains mystery. The divine-human Christ of faith is beyond reason. If we attained omniscience we might see that what is normally beyond reason is not necessarily contrary to reason.

The gift of reason requires that in all areas where reason can serve we should seek to maintain a reasonable Christianity. This same gift commits us to the valuable discipline of theology but the definitions of theology should not be regarded as absolutes or used as tests of faith and Christian fellowship.

Theologians engaged in Christological controversies in the fifth and sixth centuries in grappling

with the mystery of the human and divine in Christ. One Christology, known as Monophysitism, conceived of a union of the two natures in him in which the divine swallowed up the human so that he became one divine nature in which his humanity was lost. It has been claimed that this Christology was one factor behind the growth of the exaltation of Mary as a mediatrix. She was human and a mother and would understand.

The fourth General Council, the Council of Chalcedon, in 451, tried to settle the Christological controversies by a definition of Christ as a person fully divine and fully human. The discussion of the Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith has continued and is likely to continue as long as theologians seek to provide explanations and definitions of elements of mystery which belong to the Christian faith.

The hymn "Immortal Love" is taken from a poem by the Quaker poet, J.G. Whittier, who puts it factually, practically and beautifully:

No fable old, no mythic lore,
No dream of bards and seers,
No dead fact stranded on the shore
Of the oblivious years;

But warm, sweet, tender, even yet
A present help is he,
And faith still has its Olivet,
And love its Galilee.

The healing of his seamless dress
Is by our beds of pain;
We touch him in life's throng and press,
And we are whole again.

(This article, concerning the humanity and divinity of Christ, was requested following various responses to the film "The Last Temptation of Christ".)

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Obituaries are limited to 100 words in length.

BLOOMFIELD, Ivy May

(11.10.88) Born 1911 in Northern Tasmania, Ivy's life was hard but she finally discovered a strong faith in Jesus. Early in her teens she worked at housekeeping and farming. Later, with her husband, she moved to Copping. They had two sons, Athol and Robert. During the 1960s she made her commitment to Christ. In 1984 she moved to the Tasman Nursing Home, Nubeena and continued regular attendance at the Nubeena church. Failing health eventually confined her to the hospital bed until the Lord took her home. To the families we share their loss but rejoice in the hope their loved one had in her Lord.

—Gordon Henderson

FIELDER, Walter Darrell

(30.9.88) Born in England, 1896, came to Australia in 1910. Baptised at South Yarra, Vic., 1911. Served in France in WWI. In 1922 Wal married Claudia Baker and they were active in churches at South Yarra, Malvern, Parkdale and The Patch. For a number of years Wal managed Camp Waterman, Monbulk. After Claudia's death Wal was associated with Chelsea church, later marrying Althea Mundy and moving to Hobart. Funeral held at Hobart and a thanksgiving service at Chelsea. A coachbuilder by trade, Wal used his talents for the church. A quiet encourager, gracious and always a gentleman, he was faithful in all things.

—Tom Frazer

PEDERSEN, Clarence

(8.10.88) Born 30.3.1900, youngest son of Reinhard and Mary Pedersen, foundation members of the Warragul, Vic., church. Clamie was awarded the MBE in 1968 in recognition of long and distinguished service in the Warragul district. Although very much involved in public life, the church played a major part in his life. From 1921 to 1970 he served on the Officers' Board, either as treasurer or secretary. His whole life reflected his faith in God and love of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Alice, three sons, one daughter, 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

—D.A. Buesnel

RATCLIFF, Edmond Ray

(14.10.88) Ed's death came peacefully after a long battle with cancer. A spiritual father to many and active in South Australian churches, Ed's life was built in response to the tremendous love of God he encountered. A deeply committed husband, father and grandfather, he touched the lives of his friends and family with love, compassion and grace. His funeral and thanksgiving service at Blackwood, SA, church was shared by over 300 people, who expressed their thankfulness to God for Ed's life and ministry, and their love to Esther, his wife and their family. He will be greatly missed at Aldgate Valley, SA.

—John Gilmore

STEVENS, Ernest

(13.10.88) Ern loved God all his life and served him as church member, elder and later as minister of the churches at Naracoorte, Prospect, Ipswich, Wattle Park, Williamstown/ Gawler circuit, then, in retirement, Semaphore, Geraldton and Queenstown. Born in Launceston, Tas., Ern married Janice Gomer. In 1958 the family moved to Adelaide, joining the Edwardstown church where Ern became an elder. While manager of a marketing firm, he accepted Naracoorte church's invitation to a special ministry. Always prepared to go the second mile, holding strong convictions, a friendly, warm-hearted man, Ern served his Lord in a spirit of self-giving. His four children: Julie, Ann, Philip and Michael have all been involved in ministry. Queenstown church was filled for a service of thanksgiving and tribute.

—K.D.H.

The Manager of the Sudan Council of Churches Radio Studio, A.T. Fabian, has appealed to the All Africa Conference of Churches to mediate in the fratricidal war going on in Sudan. He has described the situation as suicidal, catastrophic and unbearable. "Juba town has been virtually besieged by the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Transportation has come to a halt. People are being starved to death. The AACC must once again step in to restore peace and order."

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•Continued from Page 9

Lord has asked of us, it is being asked too much, but if people are being allowed to give less than he requests they are being sold short. Those responsible for allowing their spiritual degeneration will be answerable at the judgement seat of Christ.

... give until God stops giving to you." "Be content with such things as you have. If everyone is allowed and encouraged to do all that God gives them the ability and willingness to do they won't need to be overworked, but will be able to do what God desires—enjoy their worship."

—E.A. Barton
(Port Lincoln, S.A.)

CHURCH GROWTH

To the Editor,

I hesitate to write in defence of Church Growth. The lines in the Brotherhood are drawn with the majority of our churches actively or passively against it. However Tertius' comments in "Rearranging Christians" ("A.C." October 15) are unfactual.

Tertius needs to study Peter Kaldor's figures (NSW Uniting Church) before repeating the idea that charismatic churches grow mainly from sheep stealing. Statistics show that they, like our growing churches, are effective at reaching pagans.

Growing churches receive disillusioned Christians fleeing the negative attitudes of some churches. Is it sinful to want "life" in a church? Our growing churches however add only 30-40% of transfer growth. My own church has baptised over 100 each year for the last four years. Most of those are from the "party going" or "beach oil" set.

Maybe "The Australian Christian" does not have such a big following in the larger churches because of attitudes like this. You represent the majority view but it doesn't do much for the converted pagans who love their new church.

By the way, without the 8-10% of our churches that have taken growth seriously and turned around Churches of Christ statistics, Tertius would probably be on the dole queue.

—Barry McMurtrie
(Wollongong City, N.S.W.)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To the Editor,

Rosslyn Reed's pamphlet "Resolving Domestic Violence" (Included in "The Australian Christian" of October 29 by the Literature Department) is a sad document; sad if the first part is an accurate description of reality and sad if the second part is the only hope that we have.

Her analysis lacks any coherent picture of what a family should be like or what form it should take. Hence, the faults are dramatised without any counterbalancing emphasis on the positive joys and benefits of family life.

To argue that the notion of the husband as "head of the family" must be eliminated from administration, law and religion if violence in the family is to be limited is to grossly undervalue the concept of headship.

Jesus came to earth saying, "I have not come to do my will, but the will of him who sent me." He acknowledged the headship of his Father. Indeed, our salvation is a consequence of that fact. Being crucified wasn't pleasant. But it was necessary and it follows from his obedience that we are saved.

The Father has promised the Son, the submissive partner in the relationship, that all things will be put under the Son's power. Headship does not imply oppression and self-seeking use of power. The Father's generous spirit is our example.

—David Brighton
(North Carlton, Vic.)

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Focus on Keith

If you have travelled along the Western Highway between Adelaide and Melbourne, you will have been through the town of Keith (population about 1,200) in South Australia. The town is in a sheep and small seeds farming area. The people are mainly from an Anglo-Saxon background, which is reflected in the congregations of the town's five churches.

The Keith Church of Christ has a 50-50 congregation. Half are members of Churches of Christ and the other half are Christians-in-Fellowship, coming from different church backgrounds. Generally, at the 10 am service, there will be 35-40 in attendance. There is a good spread of ages, from young families to great-grandfathers.

While the morning service is taking place the Sunday School is also held. The eight Sunday School teachers are rostered on a weekly basis. Children from Kindergarten to Year 8 attend, about 25 on average, and almost half of those come from non-church families. This provides a good opportunity for outreach. A family service will be held in December for the close of Sunday School and graduation.

Junior Youth is held fortnightly. This is run jointly with the Uniting Church. About 30 from Grades 3-7 attend and enjoy social activities such as bike hikes and handicraft nights. Devotions and supper follow this time. A similar group is offered by the Uniting Church for the Senior Youth. It is also well attended by youth from the various churches as well as some who are not otherwise involved in church life. Three of the young people from this group are

attending discipleship classes with the minister of the Church of Christ, Ken Wray.

Other groups connected with the church are prayer groups and a Care and Share group, held during the day. Care and Share offers a time of choruses, prayer and encouragement for those facing problems. A number of ladies in the church are also involved in Know Your Bible groups. For the men, next year Ken will be offering a series entitled *Challenge to Christian Manhood* as a mid-week study for any who wish to attend.

On the first Sunday of the month there is an evening service at 7 pm. Those who take the responsibility for presiding at morning services are asked to use their skills to lead these evenings. Occasionally there are guest speakers—a recent speaker was from Wycliffe Bible Translators, and in December a representative from the Postal Sunday School will be the guest speaker.

This year's family camp was held in April at Gemini Downs on the Coorong. The location will be different next year but it is anticipated that the fellowship will once again make the time worthwhile for all who are able to attend.

Keith is part of a circuit with Bordertown, Wampony and Mundulla. Sonny Pillay, who is based at Bordertown, shares the preaching load with Ken Wray. Each month both of them preach in all of the four churches. Ken, who has been at Keith for five years, also has the responsibility for visiting amongst the Mundulla and Wampony congregations

BOOKS

SHADES OF DARKNESS

Aboriginal Affairs, 1925-1965

by Paul Hasluck (Melbourne University Press) \$24.95

Paul Hasluck was Minister for Territories for 12 years. As a young journalist in Western Australia, many years earlier, he had written much about Aborigines. These, and other, experiences have enabled him to write about Aboriginal affairs from an authoritative perspective.

In *Shades of Darkness* Hasluck refers to the misconceptions of many, particularly Christians, in their attitudes towards Aborigines in the early part of this century. (The book also includes positive references to Christian's contributions.) He notes that most of the discussions of what should be done for the Aborigines "pointed towards their assimilation to the way of life of the Australian white majority" (p.11). According to the author a policy of assimilation was developed in 1937 and 'inherited' by him in 1951. He quickly became aware of deficiencies in the policy and of great areas of need, as well as a lack of interest, in Canberra in the plight of Aborigines. Nevertheless he defends the policy of assimilation, claiming that the only alternative is separate development. He describes his methods, during his time as Minister for Territories, as "gradualism"—wanting to wait for change to be accepted rather than enforcing it.

In his final chapter he moves beyond the years referred to in the title and looks to the future, expressing his view that the situation today is not as "happy" today as it was a generation ago. Enough reason, perhaps, to seek to become more informed about the recent history of the Government's treatment of the Aborigines. This book is a helpful beginning.

—J.T.

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS AND TO PHILEMON

An Introduction and Commentary

by N.T. Wright (Inter-Varsity Press)

In this volume, which replaces the original commentary in the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries series by H.M. Carson, Dr Wright adopts a new approach to the interpretation of Colossians. He sees it as written

in reply to Jewish attempts to persuade Gentile converts to Christianity that their position is incomplete and can only find fulfillment in Judaism. Accordingly he understands Paul as teaching that the way to maturity for the members of the church lies in appreciating, in personal and corporate life, the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ, in whom all fullness dwells.

Interestingly in this volume Dr Wright comments on the New International Version of these two letters. Again as with this series as a whole the commentary is aimed at the general reader of the Bible but it suits someone with a reasonable knowledge of the Bible and theology. At present the whole of the Tyndale New Testament series appears to be being revised and up-dated.

—C.R.A.

SLICES OF LIFE

Perspectives on a Woman's World

by Linda Andersen (Baker Book House)

This is a book written for women in all walks of life, including the housewife, mother and working woman. The author is experienced herself in these areas. Linda Andersen describes her book as "a hallway of picture windows looking deeply into the human experience of each of us" and, as such, each chapter takes a look at new and separate situations, all of which are within our own life experiences.

While some of the language is flowery and poetical in style and sometimes a little American in nature, this helps to paint the appropriate pictures and is easily adaptable to our Australian way of life. It meets the need of the woman who has little time to sit and read, by the use of brief chapters, each dealing with a separate 'slice of life' to the previous one. The writer seeks, in all these situations, to find God at work, to know his continual presence, love and power and to learn the lessons he has to teach.

This is a book which offers the reader material which can be picked up and put down at her pleasure, while not losing any of its power and meaningfulness. It also provides short but meaningful material suitable for women's meetings and devotions. A book well worth having on the shelf.

—Suzanne Piper

ENGAGEMENT

EARL—WERNER Lynette and Ray Earl of Warragul, together with Eileen and John Werner of Warragul, have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Karen and Geoff on October 23.

RUBY WEDDING

FOX—SMITH Heather and Alzor married the 27th November 1948 at Burwood, NSW, Church of Christ. Congratulations and best wishes from John, Brian, Jeanette and family.

GOLDEN WEDDING

ROFE—BUTLER Jack and Phyllis celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding which took place at Lane Cove Church of Christ on November 19, 1938. Congratulations, love and thanks to you from Ro, Val & Harry.

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG, Dorothy Henrietta. Passed peacefully away on November 3rd, 1988, at a private rest home, Hobart. Beloved wife of Leslie, loved and loving mother of Dorothy and the late Darrell Hartam (Hobart) and Les and Dorothy Armstrong (Brisbane). Dearly loved Nan of her seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Forever with her Lord.

BRODIE (FEARLE) Ruth. Late of Richmond, formerly of Prospect, SA. Dearly beloved wife of the late Edward (Ted). Beloved mother of John, Pauline (Gould) and Lor-

raine (Whittaker) and loved Nan of 10 grandchildren. Mum and dad reunited at last.

BRODIE Ruth, on November 5. Loved sister-in-law of Jean and Bob Addicott and Aunt of Graeme, Glenda and Philip. At peace.

DELANEY, Vera. On 18th October at Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Loved wife of George (dec.), mother of Jean, Brian and Faith, Lois. Grandmother of Ruth and Janine. Very dear aunt of Allan, Val, John and Jan Bush and families. "Beyond the sunset."

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at 6.30pm

Church of Christ

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Chadstone

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Housing Research Officer

V.C.C.

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27 November 1988

10.15 am

Speaker: B. Crowden

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Holy Land Study Program

—Trevor Banks

Israel is an exciting place, especially for those visiting for the first time. Prior to attending the 1988 Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions I undertook a Highlights of the Holy Land tour. With the help of a knowledgeable tour guide I had seen the holy land from the Lebanese border to Masada, from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean shores. By doing this I gained an overview of the country and was ready to look at some aspects of the land in greater depth.

I appreciated the opportunity, therefore, to participate in a Holy Land Study Program, following the conference, arranged, by St George's College, for people who had attended the conference. The Study had three sections: Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Galilee. We attended three lectures at the College before going out to our field work.

Bethlehem

After a briefing on the Church of the Nativity we made a visit to that church. We considered its history and its architecture. We were told of some of the people associated with the church, especially St Jerome and his Bible translation work. While in the Cave of the Nativity we sang Christmas carols and prayed together.

Jerusalem

'Jerusalem Through the Ages' occupied the morning and 'The Church of the Holy Sepulchre' the afternoon. We noted that Jerusalem is right on the edge of the Judean wilderness and were invited to consider what that meant for Jesus and the Jewish prophets.

We observed the City of David, then explored it on foot, thinking about the changes and expansions of Jerusalem through the ages. As we stood on the more recently unearthed steps of approach to Herod's Temple we recited together the prayer of our Lord, who would have also stood on those steps.

The Church of the Resurrection is the name Orthodox Christians give to the complex better known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here we visited those sites designated through the ages as Golgotha and the tomb of Christ. After visiting Golgotha we paused in Prison of Christ chapel to remember people held as hostages. In this way we remembered that Christ still suffers and that many still do not realise the redemption he offers.

Excavations below the Armenian St Gregory's chapel have revealed a very old place of worship, one which may perhaps have been used by the very earliest followers of The Way. Finally, in this complex, we had recounted to us the Orthodox 'Service of the Holy Fire' traditionally conducted on Easter Saturday. It was a reaffirmation of our faith in the Risen Christ.

Galilee

Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and the area around Capernaum were visited in the space of 12 hours (we set out that morning at 7 o'clock). We also had time to make a meal of 'St Peter's fish' as we travelled by boat across the Sea of Galilee. As we passed or visited places the appropriate passage was read from the Bible.

In Nazareth recent archaeological work has revealed a very old worship centre which incorporates a portion of a house with a tomb underneath. Perhaps it was the house where Mary and Joseph and their family once lived.

Around Capernaum we visited the seven springs, where Jesus met his disciples after his resurrection, the place of the Miracle of the Loaves and the Fishes and the Mount of Beatitudes. This was the area where Jesus taught, fed and

commissioned his disciples. He will do the same for people today if we will allow him to.

The Holy Land Study Program was three full days of learning in the land of the birth of our faith. For those who wish to study, to reflect, to worship, such a course is recommended.

St George's College, Jerusalem, is a centre in the holy land for field work, study and reflection. Although sponsored by the Anglican Church, it is an international and ecumenical college. It offers courses varying in length from two weeks to ten weeks.

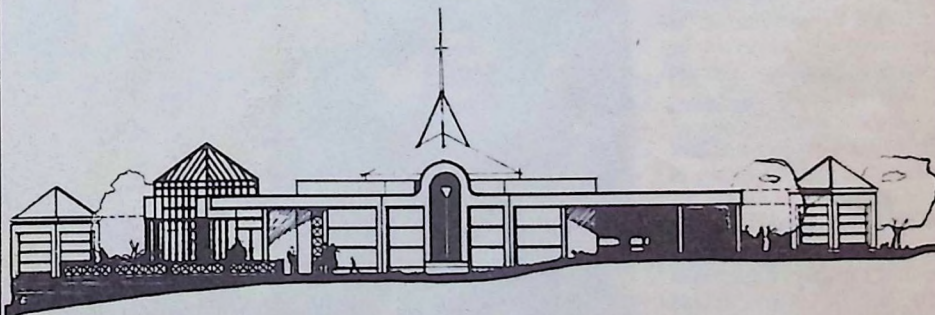
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National Youth Ministers' Seminar

The first ever National Youth Ministers' Conference was held at the Cheltenham, Vic, church October 25-27. The event, which received full backing from the Federal Board of Christian Education and Christian Projects, was designed to: network youth ministers throughout Australia; provide a forum to discuss issues relevant to youth ministries; and develop strategies and directions for the future of full-time youth ministries.

Among those invited were Jim Keatch (SA Conference), Gordon Barr (Campbelltown, NSW), Graeme Hush (Wollongong, NSW), Lloyd Irwin (North Turramurra, NSW), Chris Hutton (NSW Department of Church Development), Guy Cooper (Tweed Heads, NSW), Tim Smith (Greenacre, NSW), David Murray (Southport, Qld), Ross Savill (Toowoomba, Qld), Mark Wilson (Wembley, WA), Terry Dorrington (Subiaco, WA), David Yardley (Thornlie, WA), Glen Smyth (South Perth, WA), Kent Keller (Whitford City,



Graeme Hush, Doug Fitzpatrick and David Yardley discussing conference issues

WA), Rob Mason (Warwick, WA), Bill Addison (Armadale/Kelmscott, WA), Doug Fitzpatrick (Glen Waverley, Vic), Martin Burgess (Clayton, Vic), Scott Sloan (Doncaster, Vic), Lynda Smith (Nunawading, Vic), Andrew Ball (Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development), David Brooker (Cheltenham, Vic) and Peter Wakeley (Swanston St, Vic).

Participants were asked that prior to the conference to complete a ministries interests analy-

sis sheet in order for an accurate and representative conference program to be produced.

Key topics discussed included outreach and evangelism for young people; worship and youth; youth crisis; Australian youth ministry; research and development in youth ministry; networking; and effectiveness and leadership training and development.

The event dealt positively with each of these issues with a commitment from those present to plan into the future ways of impacting at the local level.

At the conclusion delegates resolved to: (i) raise the profile of; (ii) establish the credibility of; and (iii) maximise the effectiveness of youth ministry at the local level by researching and developing a data base of youth needs, trends in local youth ministry, and perspectives of youth ministry in the local church. They also pledged to disseminate information by consultation, field work and networking.

A report of the conference will be prepared and circulated widely to youth ministers and church leaders.

Extensions completed at Mildura

October 2 was a day of celebration and thanksgiving for the provision of the new facilities at the Mildura, Vic, church. Over 200 assembled for the official opening of the new foyer by elder/builder Doug Clark, the unveiling of the plaque recording the event by Conference President Gerald Rose, and for a service of thanksgiving in the extended chapel.

The \$70,000 project involved the removal of part of a structural wall of the chapel to enable the foyer space to become extended seating space. This has increased the seating capacity of the chapel to 220 from 180. Also involved was the building of a link-up foyer which closed the space between the chapel and main hall, the addition of an administration office and two ministry offices to complete the complex.

Using the trade skills of Doug Clark, an elder of the church, and the voluntary donation of over 1,200 hours of labour by church members, the project was com-



Gerald Rose, Vic-Tas Conference President, unveiling plaque at opening of Mildura's new foyer

pleted in 15 weeks at a cost well under budget.

Minimal disruption was made to church programs during the project. Worship services were held in the hall for four weeks while the chapel modifications

were made. Access to the hall required delicate footwork at times but generally the work proceeded smoothly.

At the thanksgiving service greetings were given by Cr Shirley Penny representing the

— Doug Beasy

Mildura City Council, Fr Jack Thompson representing the Mildura Ministers' Fraternal, Ian Cook representing the Sunraysia Conference, Don Smith as Director of the Vic-Tas Department of Mission, Education and Development and Alan Emmett from the Properties Corporation. Gerald Rose gave the occasional address.

A thanksgiving offering amounted to \$4,600. A loan of \$25,000 arranged by the Properties Corporation may not need to be called upon. Initial donations of \$25,000 and \$10,000 were received before the project began. Smaller donations have been received throughout the life of the project.

Special mention of the retired men of the church who carried the major work load during week days must be made. They operated a roster that ensured the builder had assistance each day. Other members were rostered to work on Saturdays.

DISCIPLESHIP

•Sam Bell, Melissa Tabensky, Warragul, Vic. •Carolyn Sharp, Lorraine Bucket, Michael Brown, Chris Brown, Bullcreek, WA. •Bruce & Sharon Johnson, Margaret Buckley, Cilla Raby, Werribee, Vic. •Fiona Adomeit, Dandenong, Vic. •Dale McNight, La Trobe Tce, Geelong, Vic. •Barbara Davies, Victor Harbor, SA. •Gordon Bills, Mary Bosworth, Melvyn Baker, Glenelg, S.A. •Peter Kelly, Mildura, Vic.

•Geoffrey and Kenneth Maartin, Derek and Nerida Wilson, Mathew Price, Tanya Tomkins, Kathy Perry, Bayswater, Vic.

MARRIAGES

•Bruce & Carol Graydon, Lismore, NSW. •Judy Bradley to Steve Dwyer, Bullcreek, WA. •Wilma Douglas to Mal Gamston, Peel St, Ballarat, Vic. •Ismet Mehamedali to Kelvin Burns, Ringwood, Vic. •Evelyn Sandland to Gordon Bills, Lennieve Moore to Melvyn Baker, Glenelg, S.A. •Mary Stevens to Allan Hollingworth, Mildura, Vic.

DEATHS

•C.W. Pedersen, Warragul, Vic. •George Hogg, Lismore, NSW. •Ed Ratcliff, Aldgate Valley, SA. •William Davies, Ringwood, Vic. •Mrs Eileen Forsythe, Mrs Joyce Laundry, Keith Easton, Glenelg, S.A. •Ivan Orme, Bayswater, Vic.

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NSW

LISMORE (I. Phillips) Ladies attended Conference Day at Goonellabah with CWF President Doreen Moore ... Sunday services being taped for those unable to attend ... Anniversary weekend with the Pearce family a great time of fellowship & music with theme 'Celebrate Australia' ... November 4-6 date for Evans Head family camp ... Church supporting proposal to employ chaplain for High Schools & CAE in Lismore ... Church saddened by death of George Hogg.

ALBURY (Rod Foster) Four-week Bible study on Malachi completed ... 500 New Testaments distributed via Operation Good News ... Children presented excellent mini-musical at evening service ... Approximately 25 attended informal newcomers dinner ... Betty Benson hosted hugely successful Heritage Afternoon ... Brian & Joan White led two-day Parenting Seminar ... New board elected prior to Annual General Meeting ... Minister to participate in Prepare/Enrich course.

EPPING (S. Curkpatrick, M. York) At Annual Meeting congregation received report from 12 auxiliaries. Progress in children's activities was accentuated & resulting opportunities for outreach ... The new Kids Only Club, started in July, has 20 children enrolled, nearly all new contacts ... Giving to others has totalled 36% of the budget. \$35,000 has been provided to assist churches requiring loans.

VIC

WARRAGUL (D. & D. Buesnel) AGM held October ... Church to investigate building low-cost housing units ... New playgroup reaching unchurched mothers ... KYB group formed ... Special weekend in October: Saturday, 'Temple Day', maintenance & improvement work on complex, 'Tithing Sunday' saw significant increase in weekly offerings ... Church anticipating ordination of David Buesnel in November.

CROYDON (W. Glibney) Church celebrated 115th anniversary

on October 23. Guest speakers were Eric Reid (am) and Andrew Ball of DMED (pm). We had a great time of praise & fellowship. Many former members visited & some local contacts were renewed. Aged members Irene Smith & Harold Beare were able to share with us. Offerings for the day totalled \$5,000.

PEEL ST, BALLARAT (David Woodward) Month of 5 pm film nights entitled "Who Switched the Price Tags?" by Tony Campolo ... Visiting speaker Louis Van Laar from Dept of Community Care; Jim Cunningham also speaking ... Just concluded very successful evangelistic meetings with Don Young & Richard McCain from USA: coffee mornings, prayer breakfast, church tea. Visiting singers from Mt Clear, Dawson St & local artists. A time of blessing for all.

DANDENONG (P. Plitts, M. Esbensen) Gwen Reveleigh hospitalised following skin graft; Denise Batten also in hospital ... Graeme Foon accepted invitation to lead church in new year ... Greg Elsdon will assist him part-time ... Plans now being drawn up for new church buildings in David Street ... Fiona Adomeit made her decision to follow her Saviour ... Distribution of Good News Bibles continues to be encouraging.

LA TROBE TCE, GEELONG (C.J. Mackenzie) Ruby wedding anniversary celebrations for Mr & Mrs Don Drayton held at their daughter's home ... CWF celebrated 74th birthday with a musical program ... Church's 131st anniversary highlighted by baptism of Dale Mc Night. Speaker Dr Mackenzie, with items from Grovedale Baptist Quartet. Sunday School children & Quartet gave items at the morning tea which followed the service ... Terrace led Sunday evening service at Norlane, October 30.

YORK ST, BALLARAT (Roger Risson) Church gave special acknowledgement to Brian & Heather Parsons for their ministry. Brian will start a young adult leadership group in 1989 & continues to help in preaching & youth ministries ... October gospel services: "Children & the Kingdom of God" ... Guests: Gillian Van Der Ende, Christian mime clown; Roslyn Martin, SU

singer/storyteller ... Prayer mountain, at Sovereign Hill lookout—Prayer & consecration service.

ORMOND (G. Stibbe) Church had another successful fair ... House church being held in two homes ... YAF having progressive dinner November 12 ... Bicentennial Dinner November 20 ... Student assistant Michael Adamson & wife begin their ministry January 29 ... Bible school will be holding a reunion picnic on Saturday March 18, 1989 at the Mornington oval—all past pupils & members invited.

RINGWOOD (Barry Jenkins, Bryan Mee) Michael Grechko has been appointed to the ministry team in 1989. Michael & Bryan will be working part-time & completing studies ... Visitors: Dr & Mrs Kolhatkar (India), Dorothy Geyer, Michael Dunn & Brian Jacques ... Doug Adam assisted at a meeting to review the Constitution ... Barry Jenkins has one month's leave to visit India & Nepal ... One Sunday morning congregation was divided into discussion groups examining the church's goals.

BAYSWATER (R. Combridge) We give thanks & praise for 200 present in am service to witness baptisms of seven young people — Geoffrey & Kenneth Martin, Derek & Nerida Wilson, Mathew Price, Tanya Tomkins & Kathy Perry ... Temple Day offering for building fund \$4,500. Speaker Graham Hyman ... Regret sudden death of Ivan Orme ... Request prayer for Ron Watkins, Jean Bryant & Wes Jenkins in hospital.

MILDURA (David Ratten) New foyer proving of great benefit for fellowship, comfort & ministry ... Kaleidoscope present "First Love" worship musical at Barmera, SA, & enjoyed a great fellowship weekend ... 250 attended the second annual Jazz Worship service in the church hall on Oct 30. La Vida New Orleans Jazz Band presented items ... Church planning a part-time additional ministry in 1989 ... Minister's radio program "Sunday at 7.30" receiving much positive feed-back.

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TAS

LAUNCESTON (G. Stirling) COB New Campus Appeal raised \$6694 plus interest ... CWF elected Jane Partridge President & Lynne Armstrong Secretary ... CWF held musical evening at Gwen Byard's "Fun With Music" ... State Governor presented Philip Armstrong with Queen's Badge at State Parade of Boys' Brigade ... Opening of CWF Second Mile Box resulted in \$56 for Bangladesh Flood Relief.

WA

BULLCREEK (Phillip Bradley) Church celebrated 12th anniversary October 16, welcoming six new members. Morning tea following service with beautiful cake made by Mandy Pitts ... Car park extensions completed October 8, due to faith giving ... Six new board members elected ... Gordon Moyes visited September 20 ... Community Support Service commenced October 4 ... Sound & office equipment stolen in August, challenging members to support replacement offerings.

The Church of God World Missions in Zambia has split into two factions, one led by Bishop Bernard Mambwe and the other by Bishop John Mambo, following a leadership squabble. Bishop Mambwe revealed that the question of foreign funds (mainly from the US World Mission) has been one of the causes of the split. He told the press, "All the problems you see in the church are caused by aid which comes in the form of dollars. What we have decided is to do away with the dependence on foreign funds and run a purely Zambian entity."

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SA

HENLEY BEACH (Brian Hill) Congratulations to Jodie Dodd on receiving her Queens Badge, the highest award in Girls Brigade ... Christian Youth Fellowship meetings well attended under leadership of Merle Hill ... Officers Board retreat at Victor Harbor on October 21 & 22 ... Combined communion service with other churches in Henley & Grange held in chapel on October 25.

COWANDILLA (R. McLean) 2,000 leaflets distributed with invitations to Bicentennial Witness & Celebration services, including guest speakers Joan & Geoff Fewster & Tabor College team ... Val Stevens, State O.M. Secretary, shared recent PNG experiences at tea-table service ... George Mathieson guest speaker at combined service with Richmond Baptist, also shared at tea-table service concerning "Care Groups" ... Ken Dawson led studies on Colossians at church camp at Pt Sturt.

ALBERT PARK (Steve Ogden) Steve Ogden full-time until end 1989, while Catie has leave of absence from the ministry ... Val Stevens, home after two months visiting all mission stations in PNG, busily sharing experiences; inspired church to provide one water tank & work for another over a 12-month period ... Recent Mini-Fete realised \$1,000 & generated great fellowship & an opportunity for everybody to be involved.

PROSPECT (G. Payne) The Hon. Lynn Arnold, politician & active Christian, was guest speaker for our morning service ... Lynda Baird, who is in charge of the Brotherhood Welfare Centre, was the guest speaker at the CWF meeting ... Garage sale to be held in November ... Church will host a rally with Bill & Janet Bule from PNG ... Church will participate in the Bill Newman crusade.

ELIZABETH (Ralph Oke) On Sunday October 23 Ralph Oke was inducted into full-time ministry by Neville Moore. A 'pot luck' luncheon was held after the service for all to share ... On Sunday 30th Dr Harold Deitch spoke at

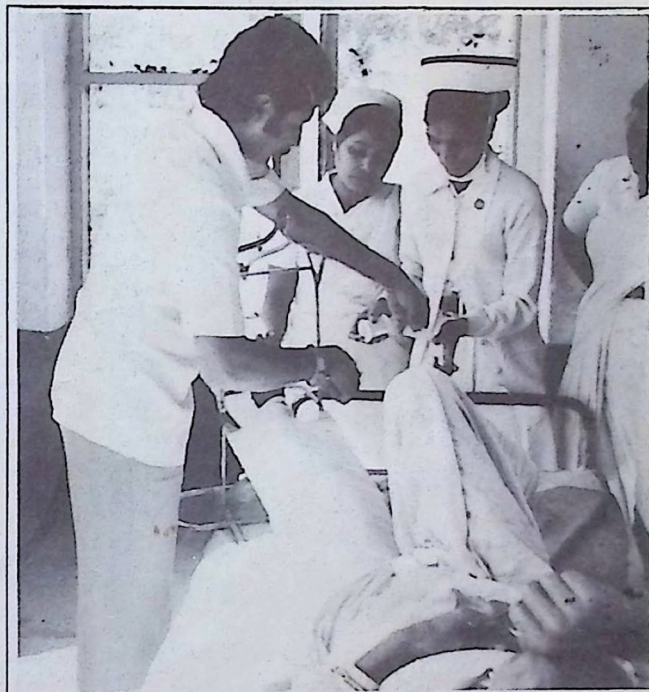
the morning service. He was last at Elizabeth whilst here for World Convention in 1970.

VICTOR HARBOR (A. Clark) Southern District Women's Conference held in hall. Guest speaker

Lois Marshall from Craft Shop, theme: 'Gifts of all Kinds' ... CWF held Fun & Fellowship night to celebrate birthday ... Camping weekend at Milang enjoyed by over 30 participants ...

Teens CYF led evening service featuring their play "A Stranger's Love" ... Sunday School picnic held at Kent Reserve, with Sausage Sizzle, dinner and games.

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YOU WERE ASKING...???

by Graham Agnew

Question: F.D. Craig of Newcastle asks: "How should we understand the teaching of James 5:14-15 and how should today's elders respond to it?"

Answer: The James passage to which Mr Craig refers is commonly regarded as an injunction (or order) for "anyone who is ill" (TEV) to call for the church elders. Having called for them, the Word then goes on to describe what the elders are meant to do. It's basically a two-part ministry:

1. To pray.
2. To anoint the person with olive oil.

Personally, I cannot see any reason why the elders of today should not respond in exactly the same way as their counterparts in the time of James. My church is one of many, I would imagine, throughout our Australian Brotherhood that provide such a facility for people who are sick in a physical or emotional sense. I believe it's a special ministry and one which gives elders the opportunity to touch the lives of their people in a very deep way.

I do notice, however, that according to the James passage the onus is on the sick person to take the initiative in summoning the help of the elders. Now, I would not want to press this to the nth degree (viz.: "until they call, will sit back and take no action!"). I do believe however that the principle at work here cuts right across the 'showmanship approach' to healing which has developed over the years and which has, tragically, caused many Christians to over-react and put the whole issue of healing into the 'too hard' basket.

By 'showmanship approach' I mean the way in which some ministers and churches seem to focus on the one through whom the healing is to take place, rather than the person in need of healing. I have no doubts that some people have the gift of healing (as per 1 Cor. 12:9), but when we call people *en masse* to come and be healed, when we major on large public 'demonstrations' of healing—and then say that there is a faith deficiency on the part of those who respond, but who aren't healed—then, to my



mind, we have moved way beyond the simple request that is being encouraged in James 5.

Verse 15 of the passage speaks about the certainty of healing: "this prayer made in faith will heal the sick person and will restore them to health and the sins they have committed will be forgiven" (TEV). As to whether the healing referred to is always physical or sometimes spiritual is a vexed question which has exercised the minds of scholars in every century. For an excellent treatment of this aspect of the passage I would refer Mr Craig and other interested readers to the relevant section of the *New Bible Commentary Revised*, published by IVP.

Meanwhile, I urge the eldership in all of our churches to review their thoughts and ideas on the ministry of healing, with a view to restoring the teaching of James 5:14-15 in all its beauty and simplicity.



If you have a question or an issue that you would like to raise please send it to:

**"The Australian Christian",
PO Box 101,
Essendon North 3041.**

THE LAST WORD

In our relationship with ourselves, we should accept the unchangeable and change the unacceptable.

—Bernard O'Brien

The professors of a college met to consider an act of misconduct on the part of one of the students. One professor insisted on punishment, saying, "God has given us eyes."

"Yes," said one of his colleagues, with a kinder nature, "and eyelids."

★★★★★

Visitor: You don't say? Your husband paid \$50,000 for this little old book.

Mrs Gottone: Yes

Visitor: He no doubt wanted to show that he had a great regard for literature?

Mrs Gottone: No, he wanted to show how little he thinks of \$50,000.

★★★★★

On a recent trip to Scotland, I stayed with my 73-year-old cousin. One morning she said, "Where's the newspaper? I want to see who stopped smoking."

Amazed, I asked, "Do they publish the names of people who quit smoking in the Scottish newspapers?"

"Aye," she said. "In the obituary column."

★★★★★

Estelle: I buy all my clothes C.O.D.

Evelyn: You do?

Estelle: Yes—Charge On Dad.

★★★★★

"I see you are reading a travel book. Getting ready for the holidays?"

"No. I'm on holiday now. I sit here and dream of places to go."

"But you're reading the book backwards."

"Yes, I'm on the return journey now."

★★★★★



★ **"WHEN are you going to stop letting people walk all over you?"**



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